

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 STR-08 AGR-20 TAR-02

SPC-03 SAM-01 AID-20 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SS-20

OMB-01 CEA-02 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 L-03 DRC-01 /146 W
----- 068470

R 161100Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4520

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 929

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD,; TS

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN EXPORT CONTROLS AND EXPORT TAXES

REF: STATE 022871

1. RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED PARA 1 REFTEL AS
FOLLOWS:

A. NO NEW EXPORT TAXES OR CONTROLS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE
BEEN IMPOSED BY GOT ON IMPORTANT PRODUCTS SINCE JAN.
1973. DE FACTO CONTROLS EXIST FROM TIME TO TIME FOR
ITEMS WHICH MAY BE IN SHORT SUPPLY LOCALLY.

ALSO,
SOME ITEMS REQUIRE AN EXPORT LICENSE WHICH MAY OF COURSE
BE REFUSED BY ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION BUT HAS NOT BEEN TO
BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE.

B. EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO PRESSURE BUILDING UP FOR
CONTROL TO LIMIT EXPORT OF ANY PRODUCT ALTHOUGH GOT
CLEARLY INTENDS PREVENT OUTFLOW OF BAIC NECESSITIES
(SUCH AS WHEAT) WHOSE DOMESTIC PRICES BEING KEPT
ARTIFICIALLY BELOW WORLD PRICE IN ORDER KEEP DOWN COST
OF LIVIVNG.

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C. EMBASSY INFORMED THAT GOT PLANS BARTER WHEREBY IT WILL SUPPLY 300,000 MT OF CRUDE OIL FOR WHICH THEY WILL RECEIVE REFINED PRODUCTS, PRIMARILY JET FUEL. PAYMENT WILL BE IN KIND, I.E. ITALIANS WILL KEEP A SHARE OF THE OIL IN PAYMENT FOR REFINING. GOT REFINERY IN BIZERTE DOES NOT COVER LOCAL NEEDS, REPORTEDLY FALLING 10-15 PERCENT SHORT.

2. ALL PRODUCTS, WHETHER CURRENTLY EXPORTED OR NOT, ARE CLASSIFIED INTO THREE MAIN CATEGORIES FOR EXPORT PURPOSES: FREE, PROHIBITED AND PROHIBITED EXCEPT FOR FRANC ZONE. PROHIBITED IN THIS CASE MEANS THAT AN EXPORT LICENSE IS REQUIRED FOR THE DIRECTION OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY. OBVIOUSLY, THIS GIVES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AD HOC CONTROL OF ALL "PROHIBITED" ITEMS. FOR EXAMPLE, PETROLEUM REQUIRES AN EXPORT LICENSE, S DOES LEAD AND ZINC. OTHER PRODUCTS SUCH AS CEREALS AND OLIVE OIL, ALTHOUGH NOMINALLY FREE, ARE CONTROLLED BY STATE MONOPOLIES FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT OF CERTAIN ITEMS, E.G. NATIONAL OILS OFFICE, NATIONAL CEREALS OFFICE, TABACCO MONOPOLY, ETC.

3. MOST EXPORT TAXES WERE REDUCED OR REMOVED IN 1971. BUT SOME STILL REMAIN. PEPPER AND GROUNDNUTS ARE TAXED. FRESH OLIVES ARE TAXED AT A RATE OF 2.6 MILLIMES PER KILOGRAM (\$1.00 - .450 MILLIMES, FEB 8, 1974). OLIVE OIL IS TAXED AT 6 MILLIME PER KILOGRAM. SCRAP METAL IS TAXED AT 10 PERCENT WHICH IS REDUCED FOR PRESSED OR CUT SCRAP.; \$-53 -,\$ -)) :8TRUS ARE TAXED AT 2 MILLIMES PER KILOGRAM. OATS, WHEAT, BARLEY AND RICE ARE TAXED AT 6 PERCENT AND CORN, SORGHUM AND LINSEED AT 4 PERCENT.

4. IMPORT RESTRICTIONS IN TUNISIA ARE IMPOSED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES DESIGNED TO PROTECT IMPORT SUBSTITUTING INFANT INDUSTRIES. NO NEW RESTRICTIONS REVEALED TO CURRENT SUPPLY PROBLEMS OR MORE SPECIFICALLY TO THE ENERGY CRISIS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN IMPOSED.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 16 FEB 1974
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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